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The Alestle

Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville



Painting shoes for a greater cause
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Volunteering in Joplin opens hearts, minds of students

COURTNEY HILL

Alestle Reporter

In the aftermath of one of the deadliest tornadoes in U.S. history, a group of past and current SIUE students traveled across Missouri to help repair Joplin.

With the death toll over 150 after the tornado with 198 mph winds ravaged Joplin May 22, the city remains a disaster zone in need of aid, while citizens attempt to piece together the remnants of their pasts that have been left in the rubble.

After hearing of these horrific circumstances, four SIUE students, three of whom are recent graduates, felt obligated to step forward and assist in any possible way.

Business management alumna Brogan Strong of Carlinville said she remembered the bus ride into the disaster zone.

“When we were driving through Joplin, my friend and I were making comments that the town seemed fine,” Strong said. “You could see, every once in a while, that a little bit of siding or roofing had been brought up by the storm, but there was one point where we just hit a wall in the town where from there on, it was just demolished. We just started crying.”

The group of women decided to work together to find a national organization that managed and transported relief teams for disaster assistance. Biomedical sciences alumna Erica Suhling of Carlinville said they proactively searched for organizations to help.



Photo courtesy of Katie Stone

(Left to right) Katie Stone, Brogan Strong, Casey Adams and Erica Suhling made the drive down I-44 to lend their help in the cleanup of the tornado that decimated Joplin May 22.

“We got in contact with United Way through the Internet and they hooked us up with AmeriCorps,” Suhling said.

A week after the disaster occurred, the

group traveled five hours to the organization’s meeting place at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin where they took a bus to the disaster site. It was at

this moment that senior elementary education major Katie Stone of Carlinville said she realized

JOPLIN/pg.2

Renovations leave Peck Hall without AC

BRIAN BERNIS

Alestle Reporter

The offices for the English, political science and philosophy departments within Peck Hall have been without air conditioning this summer leaving faculty to work in the summer heat.

Political Science Department Chair Denise Degarmo said she is battling the noise and heat and feels the overall education process is interrupted.

“With all the noise and construction it is hard to have students visit the offices and by the time the afternoon comes along, it’s too hot to be in the office,” Degarmo said. “We are probably not in our offices as much as we should be so students can ask for assistance.”

The faculty received a preliminary schedule early in the year about when certain construction operations would take place. Since then, the schedule has changed and the faculty has not been notified about any of the changes.

“We did not know that we would not have air conditioning and this past week,” Degarmo said. “We have had some issues with the heat.”

Degarmo added the air conditioning has been out since the spring semester ended in May.

Construction in Peck Hall, which started in Spring 2011, is in



Photo by Derrick Hawkins/Alestle

The renovations at Peck Hall have caused some office temperatures to rise over 85 degrees and have hindered students from finding their classes.

its major renovation phase and is causing problems for students and professors alike. Getting to class, studying or trying to pay attention during class are getting harder with all the noise.

Director of Facilities Management Bob Washburn said beyond window replacements, there are several other changes such as faculty offices receiving a thermostat in each office and receiving new plumbing.

“Currently we are replacing the windows and working on the entrance ways,” Washburn said. “We are looking to finish the construction of Peck Hall by Thanksgiving.”

Some faculty have been frustrated because they were not informed about when these disruptions would take place and want an email to be sent out so they can plan ahead.

“An email in the beginning was sent out about the whole project because the construction affects five offices and each phase is office specific,” Washburn said. “We have not heard those concerns but we will see what we can do.”

Philosophy Office Support Specialist Rhonda Harper, who has been with SIUE for more than 20 years, said this is the first time she has experienced construction

RENOVATIONS/pg.2

Patton turns pro

Royals select righty in 24th round

AJ SANSON

Alestle Managing Editor

Spencer Patton’s stellar senior season paid dividends last Tuesday when he was selected in the 24th round (726th overall) by the Kansas City Royals in Major League Baseball’s first-year player draft.

The senior was the first Cougar to be drafted since 2006 when the Arizona Diamondbacks selected Clay Zavada in the 30th round.

Patton said prior to the draft he heard he could go anywhere between the seventh round to the 15th round, but knew nothing was set in stone. He said when he heard his name come across mlb.com’s live audio feed of the draft, it was a huge relief.

“Not many people get to hear their name called,” Patton said. “I was getting frustrated when, round by round, I didn’t hear my name. I wasn’t even really paying attention then suddenly I heard my name. It was exhilarating.”

Patton said a Royals’ scout called him immediately after the news broke, but he missed the call because he was too busy hugging and kissing family members.

“He told me to get the celebrating out of the way,” Patton said once he called back. “Sunday he’s coming to my mom’s house

to sign my contract and Monday I’ll be on a plane somewhere to throw a bullpen session and from there, they’ll decide where to place me.”

Patton said via text message Monday he is heading to the Royals’ draft pick camp in Phoenix before he likely heads to Idaho Falls, Id., home of the Royals’ rookie affiliate, the Idaho Falls Chukars. He signed his professional contract Sunday for \$1,000, but said the money does not matter to him.

Patton’s 2011 senior season saw him lead the team in wins (9), ERA (2.55) and finish second in innings pitched (88 1/3). Opposing batters only hit .219 off the 5-foot-11, 185 pound righty out of Kinmundy. Patton also tied Aaron Rakers for second most strikeouts in a single season by a Cougar with 109.

His best performance came March 18, a 1-0 home victory against Valparaiso. Patton tossed a complete game shutout, allowing five hits, walking none and striking out 12. Seventy-six of his 100 pitches that evening went for strikes and Valpo right fielder Kyle Gaedele, who was drafted in the sixth round (203 overall) by the San Diego Padres, went 1-4 off Patton with three strikeouts.

PATTON/pg.7

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while she has been working.

"It is extremely inconvenient because of the noise," Harper said. "I would sit here and read the same sentence five times because of the noise. I'm lucky because if it gets too noisy I can head over to the student worker office to get things done."

While faculty in the philosophy, political science and English departments are battling noise and the summer heat, students are trying to find their way into Peck Hall.

Freshman business major Liz Gerard of Wilmette was not expecting to go through a maze to get to her class in Peck Hall.

"I am currently late for my class because all the doors I tried were blocked off," Gerard said.

Freshman business major Kodi Links of Pocahtontas has had a couple problems with the construction.

"[The] first couple days it was like a guessing game, trying to find out what entrance to use because every one I tried was closed," Links said. "The first couple days I was late for my class."

On top of being late, the English 101 class Links is in has had to move classrooms multiple times.

English Department Chair Sharon McGee said she understands some classes have been moved.

"I know there has been a class or two moved because of the

construction," McGee said.

Washburn said he was not aware of classrooms switching around because of the construction.

"It is one of those things were we looked at the schedule and

"It is extremely inconvenient because of the noise..."

- Rhonda Harper

Philosophy Office Support Specialist

where classrooms were and tried to plan accordingly to where classrooms would not be affected," Washburn said.

However, he had heard concerns about students and faculty not being able to get into the building in a timely manner.

"I have instructed the contractors to put up signs saying what entrances are open and for future renovations, we will make sure that will not be a problem," Washburn said.

Washburn said he was not surprised to hear that the English department had to relocate classes because, out of all the departments, they hold the most summer classes in Peck Hall.

Washburn said the cost of having the construction at night would increase the cost significantly and exceed the budget because of people working the second and third shifts. All safety precautions have been met so construction could happen while students and faculty are

present.

After Peck Hall wraps up construction, construction will start on Dunham Hall this fall replacing the glass in the lobby and replacing glass in the dance studios. Washburn said

Rendleman Hall will be renovated next summer.

"When we renovate Rendleman, there are always people in there because it is our administrative building and I'm sure there will be

some disruptions there too, but it comes with the territory when you renovate," Washburn said.

Washburn said it would be impossible to coordinate every faculty members' schedule so construction workers could work while faculty were out of their offices and conceded there will be some unhappy people along the way.

"In order to bake a cake, you have to break some eggs, and when you renovate, the most you can do is minimize the disruption," Washburn said. "There is going to be a disruption no matter what."

McGee is trying to maintain a positive attitude.

"Yeah, I've had my office roasting at 87 degrees but I'm trying to keep a positive attitude because, in the end, the improvements will benefit our building," McGee said.

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JOPLIN from pg.1

the impact of the catastrophe, and it brought her to tears.

"It went from absolutely a perfect town where you had no idea the tornado happened, then all of a sudden, you get into this disaster area," Stone said. "We were all laughing and stuff before we got there and then it just went silent."

Biomedical sciences alumna Casey Adams of Chesterfield, Mo., said the overall scene of the city was rife with destruction.

"We saw cars folded in half, cars on the tops of houses, mattresses in the streets, houses completely flattened all the way down to the foundation with nothing left but a concrete slab," Adams said. "It was pretty crazy."

The team was given several duties during their three-day span of volunteering during which they stayed in nearby Springfield, Mo., with one of Stone's relatives. According to Strong, at times it seemed as though the work did not make much of a difference.

However, with a few pairs of gloves and facial masks, the group worked to remove and sort debris from the town.

"From the worker's standpoint, you would only work for so long and it just seemed like you weren't getting anywhere," Strong said. "It was incredibly overwhelming because there were just piles upon piles upon piles of stuff."

Among the rubble, the team found toys and pictures revealing what used to exist there, discoveries Stone said were jarring.

"When we first got out there, I found a little boy's teddy bear and that just broke my heart," Strong said. "You wonder how many kids lost their lives and that just struck me."

Adams also discovered an American flag in the debris.

"My favorite part of the trip

[was when] someone on our team found a little American flag and we went down and stuck it in the dirt by the side of the road and stood it up," Adams said. "That hit home about how Americans pull together."

Suhling said the mood that seemed to permeate the area was one of hope and reflection for residents and volunteers despite the tornado's destruction.

"Everyone had gotten over the initial shock. Everybody was just trying to help everybody and it was a good feeling because so many people were there helping," Suhling said. "It was a community feeling and you could tell that people genuinely cared to get everybody back on their feet."

The group said that the experience was a life-changing one for them and would consider traveling back to Joplin to assist in further disaster relief efforts.

Stone said the experience helped her to appreciate her life.

"It makes me happy to be alive and I appreciate my parents more. I appreciate what everyone does for me, and I appreciate my friends," Stone said.

"When I have a bad day, I think about the houses that were no longer there. How little are the things that bother me now like, my car won't start, or something so small just doesn't matter because we have our health, and we're alive."

To volunteer your services toward the relief effort, contact the United Way of Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas at www.unitedwayswmosek.org. Donations can be made directly to the American Red Cross online at www.redcross-ozarks.org/donate.

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The Gardens director set to leave after six years

LEXI CORTES
Alestle Reporter

Doug Conley, a man who by his own admission adores the smell of fresh mulch, is leaving his position as director of The Gardens.

“When I arrived, we had the bridge, we had the path, the Myer Arboretum Plaza was in, but there were no trees around it, so an Arboretum with no trees,” Conley said. “The only way we had to water things was by five gallon buckets. We would go down and we would get water at Birger Hall.”

After making improvements to the Gardens after his arrival July 2005, Conley decided to leave June 30. He recently accepted a new job in his home state of Michigan, where he will work at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate to improve the community outreach in Grosse Pointe Shores.

“Before graduating from the University of Delaware, if you would have asked me when I started the program what I wanted to do, it probably would have sounded an awful lot like the position I’m taking,” Conley said. “I was into historic properties.”

Upon graduating from the University of Delaware, he heard about the position for SIUE director of The Gardens.

In his first year at the university, Conley assisted in the

construction of a master plan that intended to transform the Gardens into a unique destination; a botanical garden on campus. When it was first proposed in 2005, the estimated cost was \$30 million.

“The first two years we were

the Scholar’s Walk project on hold to focus on smaller projects. The Hardy Family Wind Forest was the first development that took place when Gardens supporter Rita Hardy donated five wind sculptures to the



Photo by Rebehka Blake/Alestle

Doug Conley is leaving SIUE to return to his home state of Michigan to work at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Estate.

focusing on the master plan and a major project called the Scholar’s Walk,” Conley said. “When it is complete, sometime in the future, it will be a dynamite display. It talks about the metaphor of the student’s academic journey. There’s a lot of very impressive design and horticulture display. It’s also the most expensive and the most complicated [of the structures in the plan].”

Around 2006, Conley put

campus in May of that year.

“When we got them in we had a big dedication [ceremony], our first party,” Conley said. “Peter Raven came over from the Missouri Botanical Garden. We had a couple hundred people attend that dedication and it was a big deal.”

After celebrating the first project, Conley and The Gardens’ supporters moved on to the next task, an irrigation system with the help of alumnus

and wrestling Associate Head Coach Alan Grammer.

Besides making improvements to the aesthetics and efficiency of the Gardens that first year, Conley also made an effort to get community members involved in what was happening. In 2006, he started an annual Arbor Day event in which volunteers are welcomed to come to the Gardens to plant trees and shrubs.

Conley had a difficult time finding volunteers his first year as director. He invited his closest friends to attend the first volunteer day. In 2007, The Friends of The Gardens’ organization was formed in an effort to promote more public awareness.

The amount of volunteer hours rose to more than 2,800 last year and because of this increase, Conley began plans to build the Garden Center with the help of alumnus Ralph Korte’s Korte Construction Company.

“[The Gardens] brings honor and acclaim to the university,” Korte said. “If I want to improve the atmosphere and beauty then I’m going to do it.”

Now the Gardens has a building for the storage of tools as well as the gathering of employees and community members. Conley said it is “a place to call home.”

The construction continued in 2008 with the installation of the Lantern, a plaza surrounded by a small amphitheater. The arched

bridge that has existed for more than 15 years leads visitors to the Lantern. It was a senior capstone project with the construction management program in the School of Engineering.

The way The Gardens is presently laid out, visitors only get to see about half of the existing property. With the addition of the Prairie House, the south woodlands area will be opened for viewing once funds are in place.

As for current projects, Conley said they have signed the contract to build another memorial called the Council Ring, which will be located in the Shade Stroll Garden. The design is inspired by the Native American practice of sitting in a circle when assembling so that all are equal.

According to Conley, the university has not yet found a replacement, but Ralph Korte said he is optimistic The Gardens will continue to get bigger and better every year, just as it has under Conley’s tenure.

Linda Stevens, president of The Friends of The Gardens, said Conley’s work has not gone without notice.

“I think we’re all going to miss Doug,” Stevens said. “[But] he’s moving on and I can’t be happier for him.”

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Cancelling 'Skins' too overprotective of young adults

As the attention span of America's youth dwindles to that of the average housefly, the television industry is doing all it can to keep teens watching through its use of adventurous controversy.

But the Parents Television Council, which is quickly becoming as relentless as

the lives of teenagers on a daily basis.

Keep in mind the U.K. version of the show, which features the same type of material as the U.S. version, has been a hit for four years.

But not here. After one season, "Skins" has been tossed back across the pond. I believe that it is time for the PTC to face reality.

While watching "Skins," I found relatable characters and storylines that, although occasionally dramatic, were not far off from some of my own high school experiences.

If the PTC is so concerned about the well-being of America's youth, they need to start by teaching children and teenagers that what they see on television is often a sensationalized version of life and shows like "Skins" are fictional.

Compared to other MTV hits like "Jersey Shore" and "Real World," "Skins" followed the same pattern of partying and lustful romance that these "reality" shows do.

This means the lines have not been clearly drawn on what is and is not acceptable for the MTV audiences.

Television has been the scapegoat for youth rebellion for many years, and as shows become more controversial, it is important that parents avoid becoming immediately judgmental.

I also feel that as a young adult, I have the

right to watch something that is considered "mature content."

"Skins" aired at 10 p.m. ET on MTV, which falls within television's "safe harbor" period in which shows featuring adult content can be shown. The show also featured a "for mature audiences only" warning before the show and after each commercial break on television and on MTV.com. These proper warning measures are enough to keep younger audiences away.

By shedding a light on a world of controversy I know exists in the lives of teenagers based on first-hand experience, "Skins" was a step in the right direction in American television.

If a select number of parents are unhappy with the show's content, they have the option of not tuning in or blocking the channel on their televisions, but simply ignoring controversy has never before made it disappear.

I will support "Skins" to the end because it was a refreshing dose of reality that clearly had the ability to turn heads and start conversations about problems that deserve to be discussed instead of ignored.

Ashley Seering is a sophomore mass communications major from Mascoutah. She can be reached at aseering@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Ashley @AshleySeering



Ashley Seering
A&E Editor

PETA, is pulling the plug on the controversy, most recently trashing MTV's "Skins."

Just as much as I support the ethical treatment of animals, I do believe television has boundaries America isn't ready to cross when it comes to what is and is not appropriate.

However, the PTC has a blurred vision of what America's teenagers can handle, but I believe, as young adults, we have the right to watch what many consider "mature programming."

As a fan of the show, I looked past the touchy topics and into the meaning behind the rebellious teenage characters. "Skins" delved into topics such as abandonment, homosexuality, alcoholism and bullying. Each of these affects

Cicadas fly into Missouri shop's ice cream recipe

Walking into an ice cream shop, I expect to choose from bits of Reese's or Oreo, but now, I am traumatized to discover bits of cicada is also an option.

Just the thought of the crunch of a bug under my shoe makes me cringe. When I think about putting a spoonful of ice cream in my mouth and biting down only to hear that same horrifying crunch, I want to vomit.



Lexi Cortes
Reporter

I realize it may be a stressful job to come up with new ice cream flavors. Apparently customers get tired of the same safe options and ice cream shops are competing with each other to come out with the next shocking flavor.

Recently, Sparky's Homemade Ice Cream Shop in Columbia, Mo., may have gone a little too far in hopes of gaining that shock-factor with cicada-flavored ice cream. That's right, those obnoxiously loud bugs with black heavy bodies, enormous creepy red eyes and

translucent wings were actually available for dessert June 1 for about an hour.

Customers were essentially paying this shop so they could eat bugs when they could go outside and do that for free. The employees at Sparky's gathered the cicadas from their own backyards.

They boiled the insect's breasts, thighs and legs, which are the best parts apparently, and then coated them in brown sugar and chocolate. Some of the cicadas were de-winged, others left as-is for an added crunch before they were turned into the flavor of the week. Yum.

I suppose the cicada invasion of 2011 was inspiring to Sparky's employees. When trying to come up with a solution to decrease the population, the obvious conclusion they would draw is "Why not eat them?"

When the store's owner, Scott Southwick, called the Health Department to see if this would be safe, the Health Department advised against it because, although they had information on the cooking temperatures of chicken, beef and pork, they had no cooking temperatures for cicadas. Health Department workers surely got a good laugh in that day. A

store willingly called to report bugs in their own ice cream.

The flavor has since been discontinued, at least for the next 13 years, until the next batch of cicadas is ready to emerge from underground and someone tries this madness again. I can't say that I'm upset about missing out on this short-lived craze.

Although some may argue that bugs are a good source of protein and are even a delicacy in some foreign country, I don't think I could stomach it. I've never looked at a bug and thought, "I bet you would taste really good." Usually, I think something more along the lines of, "Disgusting!"

The next time I'm craving some ice cream, I think I'll stick with something classic like cookie dough or sherbert. Definitely something sans-insect. Call me boring, but at just the thought of cicada-flavored ice cream or any other bug in my food, I can almost feel them crawling on me, which I do not enjoy.

Lexi Cortes is a sophomore mass communications major from St. Louis. She can be reached at lcortes@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Lexi @lexi_cortes

Shoe art adds 'sole' to a worthy cause

COURTNEY HILL
Alestle Reporter

Painting intricate designs on a size 5 women's shoe may seem difficult to most, but the artists who took part in the June 11 "Style Your Sole" event were up to the challenge.

The event, held at Glik's clothing and shoe store in Edwardsville, featured several local artists and ran during Edwardsville's Route 66 festival.

Artists set up booths around the store and put their own personal touch on every pair of TOMS shoes purchased throughout the day.

TOMS shoes was created by Blake Mycoskie of Arlington, Texas, in 2006 after he traveled to Argentina and witnessed children living in extreme poverty and without shoes.

Mycoskie then made it his mission to provide impoverished children all over the world with quality shoes based on his simple method of shoe sales. For each shoe sold, a pair of shoes is given to a child in need, according to the TOMS website.

Christy Haudrich, Regional Supervisor of Glik's shoes, said the artists benefit from the event as well.

"The customer buys the shoes from us and then the local artists are getting paid \$10 for



Photo by Rebehka Blake/Alestle

Local artist Emma Holmes decorates a pair of TOMS shoes as part of the "Style Your Sole" event hosted by Glik's in Edwardsville. For each pair purchased, a pair of TOMS is given to a child in need.

each shoe that they paint," Haudrich said. "I feel we've had a lot of good response from the local artists as far as them willing to participate, so to me that shows that they are very interested in

helping out in TOMS' concept of giving a pair of shoes to children in need."

Although each shoe had to be personalized based on the customers' preferences, each artist

had the opportunity to showcase their unique styles to appeal to customers. From whimsical and abstract art to urban graffiti flair, customers were given a broad range of

artistic styles to choose from.

Given the cotton fabric of the shoe, artists were limited in their use of paint media, which could be as substantial as acrylic and spray paint or as simple as colored markers.

Customizing the shoes to each customer's liking in a time-sensitive environment proved to be a lofty task for many of the artists, but they appreciated the experience.

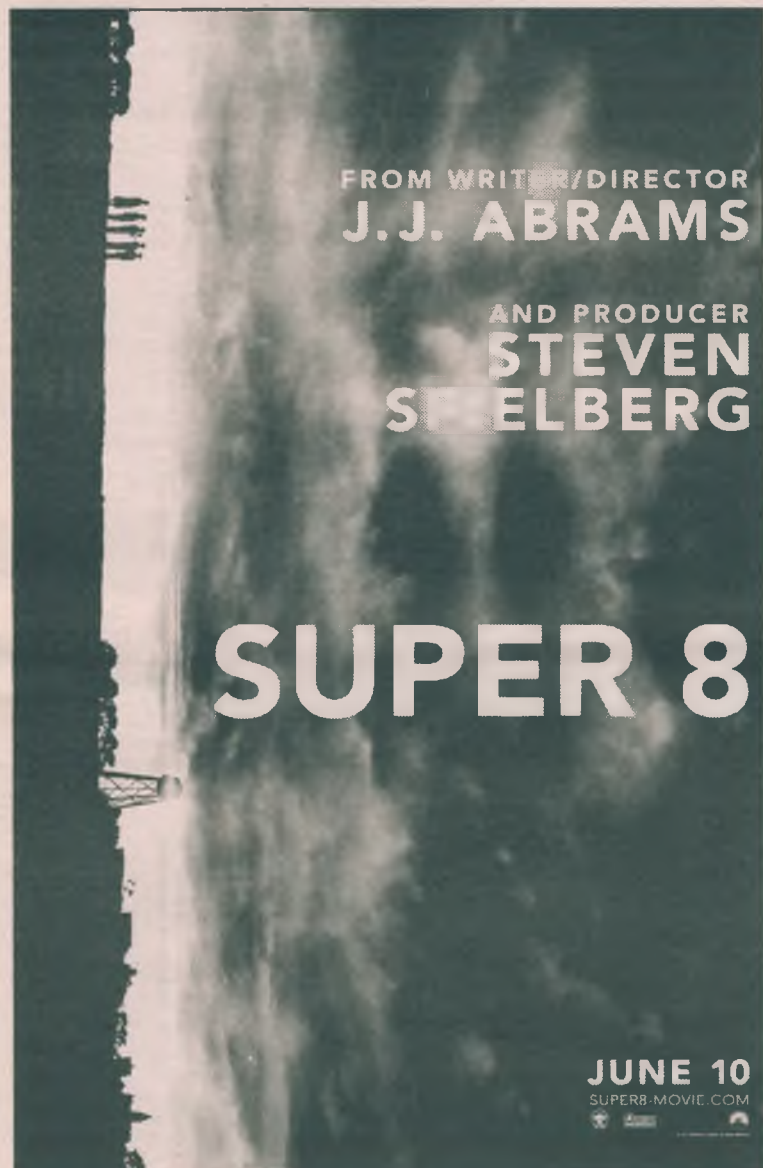
Nick Nihira, an artist from St. Louis who specializes predominantly in abstract art, described some of his challenges in working with shoes as a canvas.

"It is really different because of the texture and the shape of the shoe," Nihira said. "It's kind of different than painting on a 2-dimensional surface. It was a good opportunity to do some art work on some shoes, and I like the TOMS philosophy on 'One for One.'"

St. Louis artist Jeff Miller said that helping children in need was the most important aspect of the event, but striving to create high-quality art designs for customers in a time crunch was a formidable effort.

"Bottom line, it's more

SHOES/pg.8



Graphic courtesy of Paramount

Lights, camera, action: 'Super 8' delivers suspense, excitement

MICHELLE BEARD
Alestle Photo Editor

"Super 8" drew a lot of hype with its 30-second Super Bowl spot. Explosions, running children, something breaking out of a shipping container and Steven Spielberg and J.J. Abrams' names quickly flash across the screen.

"Super 8" is not your typical creature/alien flick nor is it a re-imagining of Spielberg's kid-alien movie "E.T." It had a genuine Spielberg feel – a la "Jaws" and "Jurassic Park" – with Abrams' added flair for special effects.

Amid the mystery surrounding the train derailment, it explores deeper subjects such as death, divorce and preteen love. These subplots make the story somewhat jagged, but I was too intrigued by the mystery of "what the eff is the thing in the shipping container?" to notice.

In the fictional town of Lillian, Ohio, middle school-aged Joe Lamb (Joel Courtney) and his father, Deputy Jack

Lamb (Kyle Chandler), mourn the loss of his mother to a steel mill accident.

Fast-forward four months.

In the summer of 1979, Joe and his friends begin filming a Super 8 zombie flick written and directed by Charles (Riley Griffiths), the token fat child in kid adventures. In order to beat the 16- and 17-year-olds in a film festival, Charles adds a female role – enter Alice (Elle Fanning...yes, Dakota's sister), the target love interest of both Joe and Charles. Alice steals her father's car to drive the group to a midnight shoot at a train station.

Alice plays the wife of a detective, played by Martin (Gabriel Basso), investigating the zombie outbreak. As they rehearse, a train nears, adding "production value" to their contest entry. The boys scramble to put film in the camera and get Alice in her costume. The camera rolls.

Joe holds a makeshift boom mic above Alice and Martin as they yell over the sound of the

train rumbling by.

While they are filming, a pick up truck swerves onto the tracks and heads straight toward the oncoming train. As the train derails, the kids flee in opposite directions, leaving their equipment at the station, camera still rolling.

After dodging flaming debris and explosions for a solid four to five minutes, the kids discover that the driver of the truck is Dr. Woodward, the honors biology teacher at their middle school. Woodward remains conscious long enough to give the kids a cryptic warning: "They will kill you. Do not speak of this."

In the days following, people, dogs and power lines go missing in Lillian. The US Air Force makes a presence in the small town. While the adults of Lillian, Joe and his friends take it upon themselves to investigate the strange happenings in their town.

The nail-biting suspense never ends. I was on the edge of

MOVIE/pg.8

WELCOME SPRINGBOARD CLASS OF 2011

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Sweet home SoCon

Wrestling accepts associate membership in the Southern Conference

ALLAN LEWIS and AJ SANSON
Alestle Sports Editor and Managing Editor

SIUE wrestling has a new home in the Southern Conference.

Throughout its history as a Division II program, the SIUE wrestling team was homeless.

Wrestling

There were no conference rivals, no set schedules and most importantly, no postseason play in sight even as SIUE's four-year transition period towards full certification as an NCAA Division I institution nears its completion.

The wrestling team had been an outcast, not part of the initial move to the Ohio Valley Conference because wrestling is not a sport the OVC sponsors. Neither is men's soccer, but that team quickly found a home in the Missouri Valley Conference.

In order for the wrestling team to meet its goals, a conference was necessary for Head Coach David Ray and the Cougars. The search for a conference home took many turns, including a call to the Big 12.

In the end, it is not the Big 12 who will house the Cougars, but rather the Southern Conference, which the Cougars were named as an associate member in wrestling Monday, along with Campbell and Gardner-Webb.

"This has been a great opportunity for SIUE wrestling...we finally found a home in a conference," Ray said. "We found a conference we wanted to be a part of. There are some great teams in it and it will be a great conference for duals and home meets."

The Cougars, along with Gardner-Webb and Campbell, give the SoCon eight teams, and put it back above the six it needs

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE/pg. 8



Alestle Photo Archives

Head Coach David Ray and the SIUE wrestling team will take their game to the Southern Conference starting with the 2012-13 season. The SoCon announced SIUE, Gardner-Webb and Campbell will become associate members of the conference.



Alestle Photo Archives

Spencer Patton was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 24th round of the Major League Baseball first-year player draft last week. Patton will be pitching for the Royals rookie affiliate the Idaho Falls Chukars this season.

PATTON DRAFTED

from pg. 1

The victory against Valpo was the second in a string of three consecutive starts in which Patton struck out 12 batters.

The Royals were one of two teams that called Patton for a pre-draft try out, with the other being his childhood favorite - the St. Louis Cardinals. Patton said when the two teams were on the clock he tended to listen a bit more closely.

"I knew they were the two

most interested teams," Patton said, "When they were ready to pick everybody got quiet."

The 2011 MLB draft was documented as one of the deepest pitching classes in years. The Royals selected 25 pitchers out of their 50 draft picks, including seven lefties. The Royals' system has also seen two of their most touted prospects in recent years get called up to the majors: third baseman Mike Moustakas and

first baseman Eric Hosmer.

Patton said he is excited to be a part of a system that also added high school outfielder Bubba Starling, fifth overall in the 2011 draft.

"The Royals have the number one ranked system in baseball," Patton said. "They don't have high-dollar guys like the Yankees, they bring in guys they know they can build into what they want. I like that; I was happy with the Royals."

Patton said Head Coach Gary Collins called early Wednesday morning and told him to "start working out, your career starts today."

"I think Spencer deserves this opportunity," Collins said. "I think he's earned it, so now it's up to him."

Collins said what he thinks stood out about Spencer are his fundamentals of the game of baseball.

"He's not that big, he's pretty mature, his velocity probably won't go up much," Collins said. "But what he has is a lot of little skills that sometimes get overlooked. He's a good athlete, he fields his position, he holds runners on, he's quick to the plate and he competes. Sometimes those things mean more than throwing hard."

Collins said the Royals drafting so much pitching in 2011 may not bode well for Spencer as he climbs the minor league ranks, but added that every team has pitching depth.

"Once you get there you have to earn your way up the ladder," Collins said. "The guys drafted in the first five to eight rounds that get good bonuses get more opportunities to fail than the guys who get drafted in the later rounds. But you still have to

perform."

Patton said not too long after Collins called him, Associate Head Coach Tony Stoecklin, who handles the pitchers, phoned him and joked "I guess they'll just draft anyone now."

"He always told me when I got here that I'd have a chance to go pro," Patton said. "All I had to do was work."

Stoecklin, whose task is to now replace Patton and fellow senior Josh Malin in the rotation, said Patton's track will not be easy, but Patton's drive will help.

"The ability's there," Stoecklin said. "It's the ability to harness it and perform day in and day out that's the deciding factor on whether he succeeds or not. He'll have a chance because he likes to compete and if he doesn't do well, he'll do whatever it takes to fix that and make himself better."

Patton's former battery-mate, catcher Brett Keeler, wasted no time texting and tweeting Patton to congratulate him on being drafted. Keeler said Patton's mentality is a big reason why he thinks the Royals liked what they saw.

"He's always trying to get better," Keeler said. "I don't think he's ever satisfied with himself. A lot of guys have the physical tools, he has the mental tools as well."

With his career beginning, Patton said he has had little time to let the facts sink in, and relax between being congratulated and packing.

"I don't think it's hit me, I've been on the phone 24/7," Patton said. "I figure when I get on that plane, that's when it'll hit me."

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Cougars drafted since 1990

2011 Spencer Patton 24th

2006 Clay Zavada 30th
MLB Debut 5/29/09

2001 David Crouthers 3rd
Traded to Cubs for Sammy Sosa,
did not play in MLB

2001 Josh Clark 14th

2001 Matt Wilkinson 45th

1999 Ryan Cox 5th

1999 Aaron Rakers 23rd
MLB Debut 9/8/04

1998 Robert LaMarsh 28th

1997 Jeff Ridnour 21st

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

from pg. 6

to maintain its status as an NCAA tournament automatic qualifying conference. UNC Greensboro made a financial decision to cut its wrestling program in March, putting the conference at just five teams.

Director of Athletics Brad Hewitt said the match is a good fit for SIUE and the SoCon.

"We are assured of it being a conference sport eligible for NCAA competition," Hewitt said. "We are just fortunate enough to be close enough on the regional realm for them to consider us."

The SoCon is a bit of a stretch for the Cougars from a geographical standpoint.

Campbell and Gardner-Webb are both based in North Carolina, as is conference member Appalachian State. The Citadel and Davidson are in South Carolina, with Virginia Military Institute in Virginia and Chattanooga in Tennessee.

The Cougars are no strangers to traveling to the Southeast, however, as they competed in the NWCA National Championships in Macomb, Ga., last season, something Hewitt said may have helped sway the SoCon's decision.

"The effort Coach Ray made heading out east and competing in the postseason tournament gave us enough exposure for them to realize we are committed to what we are going to do with the sport," Hewitt said.

The Cougars will not be eligible for the 2011-12 conference championships in Chattanooga, but will be fully certified in time for the tournament March 9, 2013 at VMI.

Junior Steve Ross said the Cougars have time to improve before the 2013 season when the team becomes eligible.

"Since we are the new team coming in, everyone wants to beat up on us," Ross said. "Every year, our recruiting has gotten better and by 2013 we will have some guys qualify for nationals."

Despite the geographical fit in the conference, Ross said SIUE should find the SoCon to be an easier fit than some of the bigger



Graphic courtesy of Southern Conference

conferences SIUE was eyeing.

"It's a good conference for us as a first year team," Ross said. "It's one of the weaker conferences for wrestling, so I think it'll work to our favor instead of the Big Ten or a conference like that."

Recruiting out of the St. Louis area may be one of the benefits SIUE has over its competition in the conference, and Ray is confident in SIUE's ability to compete in the SoCon.

"We can recruit the type of athlete we recruit and bring the level of competition up in the Southern Conference," Ray said. "The more placers you have for the national tournament, the more qualifiers the conference will have the following year. If we can bring some national placers to the conference it will increase the numbers for the conference."

Junior Michael Dace, who won a national championship with an injured knee for the Cougars at the NCWA level earlier this year, said the SoCon will be a challenge for the Cougars because of its postseason format.

"I feel like it's a good conference for us because we are still a young team," Dace said. "It's tough to get into the conference tournament because I think they only take one guy per weight bracket where the Big Ten takes four or five, so you really have to be the best. As far as that, I have mixed feelings."

The Cougars' ineligibility until 2012-13 gives the team a chance to grow, according to Dace.

"We are young and we are building, so it gives us a couple more years to build our schedule," Dace said. "I think the year before I got here we won three duals, and this year we won six or seven, so hopefully we can get to about 10 this year and keep improving."

In the meantime, Ray said scheduling the Southern Conference will be a priority, as SIUE remains an independent, for now.

"It takes a lot of stress and pressure off for next year because we know that we are in a conference and we know who we are going to compete against," Ray said. "We already have some of these teams on our schedule and it is very important that we perform very well. We want to win and set a precedent for what SIUE can do and how we will perform in the conference."

Hewitt also said the move is a historic one for the program, which is in its 41st year of wrestling.

"It sheds light on the direction and focus of the program and it helps our alumni realize and identify wrestling, which has never really been a conference sport," Hewitt said. "Having that element should be exciting for all the former wrestlers as well."

Last season, the wrestling team was 6-15 in dual meets and finished fourth out of 77 teams at the NCWA tournament.

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SHOES from pg.5

about just supporting the cause in general than it is about making money, it's not a money-making venture," Miller said. "[The customers] want to support TOMS, they want to have something neat and have a great experience, so it's a lot of pressure."

Many customers who bought TOMS shoes were enthusiastic about the "Style Your Sole" concept and enjoyed the event overall. Marlee Gunderson of Granite City expressed her excitement in helping others.

"This is awesome, [and] I think it's cool that little kids get shoes out of it and other people get shoes out of it," Gunderson said.

Ali Fingerhut of Granite City also appreciated the cause, not only for the children but for the

artists as well.

"I think it's really cool that you're helping out a kid in another country and you're also paying these artists," Fingerhut said. "It's a good little side job for them."

Because of the alluring artistic concept, the Glik's franchise will be sponsoring another "Style Your Sole" event in Frankfurt, Mich., in two weeks. The event will also include several Michigan artists and their talents, and will be promoted by TOMS shoes.

For more information on TOMS shoes and how you can help, visit www.toms.com.

Courtney Hill can be reached at chill@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Courtney on Twitter @CHill824.

SIUE set to meet SIUC next season

ALESTLE SPORTS REPORT

For the first time since 1987 and the first time in Division I, the Cougars and Salukis will battle on the hardwood.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale released the non-conference portion of its men's basketball schedule Tuesday, and SIUE is scheduled to play its sister school Monday, Dec. 19 at SIU Arena in Carbondale. Game time is still to be determined.

SIUE Head Coach Lennox Forrester said the Cougars and Salukis agreed to a four-year scheduling contract, meaning SIUC will come to the Vadlabene Center during the 2012-13 season and the 2014-15 season.

"It will be a huge battle for us to beat them, because they have tradition and have done pretty good in the past. It is a good opportunity for SIUE, our players and our fans," Forrester said.

The Cougars are 0-3 all-time against the Salukis, who were 13-19 last season with a 5-13 record in the Missouri Valley Conference. SIUE was 8-21 last year, and will play a full Ohio Valley Conference schedule for the first time in program history.

Forrester said the game could

spurn a rivalry between the two Southern Illinois schools.

"It's always good to have a rivalry, it's good for the fanbase and good for the school," Forrester said. "If that's the case, I'll be excited about it and I think our fans will be excited about it. Who knows what will happen."

The Salukis are not the only opponent on the 2011-12 schedule with regional appeal. SIUE opens the season against the University of Illinois Nov. 14 in Champaign and Illinois State Nov. 17 in Bloomington as part of the Triple Crown Sports Cancun Challenge.

The three games against Illinois schools give fans multiple opportunities to see the Cougars on the road next season.

"When you are looking at it from a budget standpoint, they are easy games to get to for our fans and our players instead of traveling to somewhere like Cal State Fullerton," Forrester said. "It is two hours to Illinois, two hours to Illinois State and a few hours to Carbondale."

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MOVIE from pg.5

my seat for all 112 minutes and the movie was surprisingly satisfying for being less than two hours long.

The young actors' performances were far more convincing than the more experienced adults'.

15-year-old Joel Courtney delivers the most charming performance in his movie debut. He and his teen co-stars had

perfect chemistry, creating the most believable group of friends I've seen on film.

I highly recommend seeing "Super 8" in theaters rather than waiting four months for it to show up on DVD. Most importantly, stay for the credits.

★★★★☆

Michelle Beard can be reached at mbeard@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Michelle on Twitter @michbeard.

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